

URBAN DISTRICT OF BENFLEET



*Souvenir Programme*

---

*on the occasion of*

THE CELEBRATION

*of the*

**CORONATION**

*of*

*Her Majesty*

**QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

---

Tuesday, June 2nd, 1953

PRICE ONE SHILLING



Portrait by Dorothy Wilding, London

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



# *The Coronation . . . .*

## ITS SPLENDOUR AND MEANING

**T**HE FANFARE of trumpets which echoed across the courtyard at St. James's Palace on 6th February, 1952, following the Proclamation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, will sound again on Coronation Day, 2nd June, 1953, in London's Westminster Abbey.

For nine hundred years this historic building has been the scene of coronations of British Kings and Queens, first in the great church built by Edward the Confessor, and then in the present Abbey Church which Henry III built on the same site in the 13th century. The Coronation Service, too, has changed little for nearly twelve hundred years except that English has taken the place of Latin, but in essentials it remains the same. It is still a service of election, of confirmation of the people's choice, and of consecration and dedication of the Sovereign to the service of God and to her people throughout the British Isles, the Commonwealth and Empire. Not only is the Coronation a solemn covenant between the Queen and her people but it is also, on their part, a sign of loyalty in return.

This momentous and historic occasion which is probably the most colourful, glittering and impressive ceremony in the world is not, however, a mere pageant of history. All the symbolic rites included in the ceremony are of a deeply spiritual significance and the Coronation Service throughout implies that the life of the Monarch is a life dedicated to the service of God and to man.

The very heart of the ceremony is not the crowning, but the anointing. This is done by the Archbishop of Canterbury who pours the holy oil from the Ampulla, a vessel of gold in the shape of an eagle, into the 12th century richly ornamented Anointing Spoon ; he then removes the oil from the spoon and, in the form of a cross, he touches the Sovereign on the crown of the head, the breast and palms of both hands—an action signifying glory, holiness and fortitude.

Following the Anointing the ceremony continues with the girding of the Sword, an indication of the placing of the Sovereign's sword at the service of the Church ; clothing with the Royal Robe ; the presentation of the Orb, symbolising the domination

of the Christian religion over the world ; and the presentation of the two sceptres, emblems of justice and mercy. All these, with the culminating act of Coronation, are filled with deep spiritual meaning which has remained constant down through the centuries.

At the conclusion of the Coronation Ceremony, the Queen, wearing her crown and arrayed in her coronation robe of purple velvet, will return to Buckingham Palace through five miles of gaily decorated streets, acknowledging the cheers of many thousands of people who will have gathered in the capital to see the brilliant pageantry of this historic occasion. Centre-piece of the processional drive will be the resplendent State Coach, drawn by eight Windsor Greys, in which the Queen will ride with her Consort, the Duke of Edinburgh. Accompanying the Coach, on either side will be footmen, clad in red and gold ; and the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard in their picturesque Tudor uniforms. A Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry will add to the splendour of this brilliant scene. The procession will be augmented by carriages carrying other members of the Royal family, Royal guests, representatives from the Commonwealth and Empire and of many other lands throughout the world.

Marching soldiers, sailors and airmen, bands, crowds and gaiety will contribute to a spectacle which only Britain can provide in Coronation Year, 1953.



*The Chairman, Members and Officers of the Benfleet Urban District Coronation Committee desire to express their very deep sense of appreciation to all persons, young or old, who have in any way whatsoever co-operated with them in connection with the Coronation celebrations for this district.*

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(Open to all residents of the Urban District)

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2nd	2 GUINEAS
3rd	1 GUINEA
4th	1 GUINEA

(Kindly donated by Mr. & Mrs. A. Boston, of "Garry," 37, Clarence Road, South Benfleet).

---

These prizes will be awarded for the **MOST ATTRACTIVE DISPLAY OF DECORATIONS IN FRONT OF THE DWELLING**, including flags, bunting, streamers and other appropriate show-pieces, and coloured lights and illuminations.

ENTRIES must be received not later than the **31st May, 1953**, accompanied by the entrance fee of **One Shilling**. The proceeds of the Competition will be devoted to the Benfleet U.D.C. Coronation Fund.

JUDGING will take place on **1st June, 1953**.

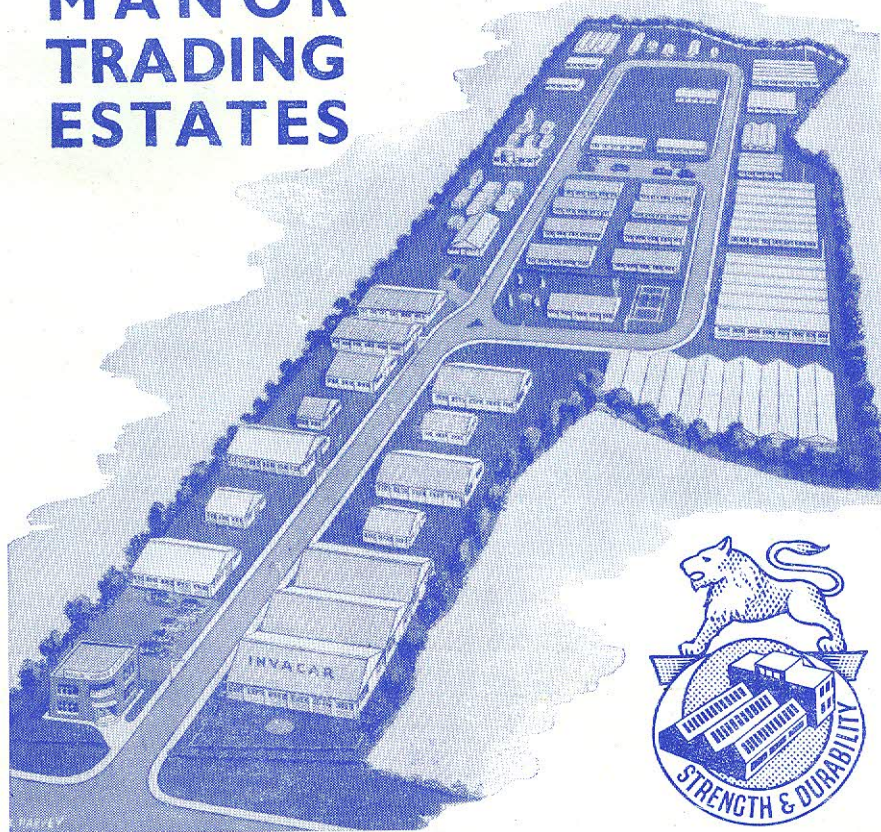
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ENTRY FORM and further particulars may be obtained from:  
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**MAIN**



**AGENTS**

**LUCAS BATTERY SERVICE**

SUNDAY, MAY 31st

— AT —

*King George V Playing Field, Shipwrights Drive*



SPECIAL CORONATION  
OPEN AIR SERVICE

KINDLY ARRANGED BY THE MINISTERS FRATERNAL OF THE URBAN DISTRICT  
FOR ALL DENOMINATIONS

*at 3.30 p.m.*

*ALL RESIDENTS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT ARE EARNESTLY  
INVITED TO ATTEND THIS SERVICE.*

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MUSIC BY THE BAND OF THE SALVATION ARMY BY KIND PERMISSION  
OF BRIGADIER D. F. CAPEWELL.

---

Uniformed Contingents of various services and organisations will parade at both  
the Open Air Service and the Opening Ceremony.

PARADE ADJUTANT - - - CAPT. E. R. BARTON.

PARADE SARGEANT-MAJOR - - - C.S.M. R. GIBSON.



# CORONATION DAY

*Celebrations at  
King George V Playing Field, Shipwrights Drive*

---

## *Opening Ceremony*

PROCEEDINGS TO COMMENCE AT 3 P.M.

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FANFARE BY TRUMPETERS OF THE 1341 (THAMES ESTUARY) SQUADRON  
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BREAKING OF THE FLAG :: ROYAL SALUTE :: NATIONAL ANTHEM  
FANFARE.

PRAYERS.

HYMN

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Now thank we all our God,<br>With hearts and hands and voices,<br>Who wondrous things hath done,<br>In Whom His world rejoices ;<br>Who, from our mother's arms,<br>Hath blessed us on our way<br>With countless gifts of love,<br>And still is ours to-day. | 2. O may this bounteous God<br>Through all our life be near us,<br>With ever joyful hearts<br>And blessed peace to cheer us ;<br>And keep us in His grace,<br>And guide us when perplexed,<br>And free us from all ills<br>In this world and the next. |
| 3. All praise and thanks to God<br>The Father now be given,<br>The Son, and Him Who reigns<br>With Them in highest heaven,—<br>The One eternal God,<br>Whom heaven and earth adore ;<br>For thus it was, is now,<br>And shall be evermore.                      |  |

ADDRESS BY

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NATIONAL SONG : "LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY."

NATIONAL ANTHEM

TO BE FOLLOWED BY MARCH PAST OF UNITS ON PARADE

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# Entertainments before Coronation Day

- SATURDAY, 9th May**      **MOTOR CYCLE SCRAMBLE** by the Southend & District Motor Cycle Club at 2.30 p.m. at the Salvation Army Land and Industrial Colony, Castle Lane, Hadleigh.
- SATURDAY, 16th May**      **OLD TIME DANCE**, Benfleet County Secondary School M.C.—Mr. H. Dabbs.
- WHIT SATURDAY, 23rd May, 7.30 p.m.**      Benfleet County Secondary School Theatre, Shipwrights Drive, Thundersley.  
REVUE by M.J. PRODUCTIONS.
- WHIT SATURDAY, 23rd May**      **HORSE GYMKHANA** organised by the South East Essex Driving and Riding Club at Runnymede Chase, Kiln Road, Thundersley, commencing 12 noon.



## Forthcoming Events

### A GRAND CRICKET MATCH

will be held at John H. Burrows Recreation Ground, Hadleigh, including the appearance of players from the Essex County Team

— AND —

### CORONATION CUP SPEEDWAY MEETING

AT RAYLEIGH WEIR STADIUM.

Collection will be taken for Coronation Fund.

*Dates to be announced later.*

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See posters for prices of admission and other information.

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# Programme of Events

<b>SUNDAY, 31st MAY</b>	<b>THE KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD</b>
3.30 p.m.	UNITED OPEN AIR SERVICE.
<b>TUESDAY, 2nd JUNE</b>	<b>CORONATION DAY</b>
3 p.m.	OPENING CEREMONY
3.40 p.m. approx.	MARCH PAST. Salute taken by The Chairman of the Benfleet Urban District Council. PRESENTATION OF PRIZES.
4 p.m.	PUNCH & JUDY by Mr. Vernon Clifford. ARCHERY DISPLAY by Southend & District Archery Club
4.30—6 p.m.	CONCERT by "Versatile Kids" in School Theatre.
5.45 p.m.	PUNCH & JUDY by Mr. Vernon Clifford.
6—6.45 p.m.	PHYSICAL TRAINING DISPLAY by the A.T.C.
7.30—9 p.m.	CONCERT by the San Toy Dancing Academy in the School Theatre.
8—11.30 p.m.	DANCING in the School Hall to LES ALLEN & His Band (M.C.—Mr. E. F. Smith). PRIZES. During the Dance the CABARET TROUPE of the JEANETTE SCHOOL OF DANCING will present 2 CABARET SPOTS.
Dusk	COMMUNITY SINGING followed by GRAND FIREWORK DISPLAY and BONFIRE.
2 p.m.—Dusk	CORONATION FLOWER SHOW.

## EXHIBITIONS AND AMUSEMENTS

FUN FAIR - OVER 20 STALLS - BOWLING FOR THE PIG - POUND STALL  
MINIATURE GOLF - ARCHERY SHOOTING FOR ALL - HANDICRAFTS  
DISPLAYS - PONY RIDES - ARMY RECRUITING STAND - ROAD SAFETY  
EXHIBITION - FUR & FEATHER EXHIBITION - SHOOTING AT GOAL  
REFRESHMENTS - MUSIC - AND MANY OTHER ATTRACTIONS.

FREE CAR PARK.

## REFRESHMENTS

Arrangements have been made with the proprietor of the Hollywood Club to provide light refreshments from two marquees which will be erected near the Club Car Park; there will also be an ice-cream van on the field. More substantial meals can be obtained in the restaurant.

# BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT AND ROYALTY

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Few urban districts in England have as many associations with the Royal Family as our own. For over 300 years, our kings and queens rode along our highways, stayed here while on their hunting expeditions, and derived much of their income from our manors.

The first king to take an interest in Benfleet was Alfred the Great, for here on the Downs, the Danes established an armed camp under their leader Haestan, who ravaged the country around and even threatened London itself. Alfred, in 893 A.D. was forced to send an army here. At the battle of Benfleet the invaders were driven eastward, and their long ships which were anchored in the Creek were either captured or burnt.

In 1087, William the Conqueror, our first Norman king, gave the manor of Benfleet and the Church of St. Mary to the monastery at Westminster, the profits providing a little extra food and beer for the monks in their refectory.

During the reign of Henry II (1154-1189), Henry de Essex, hereditary Standard-bearer to the King, and Lord of the Manor of Thundersley committed an act of great cowardice. During one of the King's expeditions in Wales, he threw down the royal standard and fled. For this he forfeited his manors to the crown. Thundersley thus became a royal village. King John (1199-1216) had his hunting lodge here, and in 1267, his son Henry III gave his cook the right to hunt in the Park of Thundersley.

By 1230, Hubert De Burgh, Earl of Kent and Justiciar of England, one of the barons who signed Magna Carta in 1215 and who ruled our country wisely during the minority of Henry III, had built a castle at Hadleigh. Here is part of the King's charter giving him permission to do so :—

*"The King, to whom these present letters shall come. Greeting. Know ye that we have granted to us and our heirs to Hubert de Burgh and Margaret his wife, that they may at their will construct for themselves and their heirs a certain castle at Hadlee."*

Soon after this, Hubert fell from the King's favour and the castle became the property of the crown. Now began a long and close connection between our district and royalty. The reigns of the three Edwards were great days in the history of the castle. All these kings were fond of the chase and were frequently to be seen hawking and hunting the deer in our parks. Edward II stayed at Hadleigh in September, 1311, and again in February and March of 1314. We find him staying in Thundersley from the 7th to the 20th March, 1315, and returning again in 1316 and 1318.

Several of our queens, too, enjoyed the revenues from the manors of the district, the widow of Henry III finding them a profitable source of income. Her son Edward I (1272-1307) gave the castle and town of Hadleigh to his second wife Margaret of France. She complained in 1314 "*that divers persons had entered her parks, free chases and free warrens of Hadley and hunted therein without her licence; also in like manner entered her closes there, broke her houses, walls and fences, fished in her stews and free fisheries, carried away her trees and fish and took deer from the park, and hares, rabbits, pheasants and partridges.*"



Edward III must have thought highly of his castle, for he spent thousands of pounds on repairs. Reigate stone was carted from Battersea, ragstone ferried from Maidstone and tiles brought from Flanders. Among the accounts are the following items :

<i>Carriage of one chest for putting the King's armour in from the mill to the castle ...</i>	<i>2d.</i>
<i>Two bushels of bran for cleaning the King's armour ...</i>	<i>3d.</i>
<i>One quart of olive oil for the armour ...</i>	<i>12d.</i>
<i>Plaster of Paris for the chandelier in the King's chamber ...</i>	<i>22d.</i>
<i>Mending the windows in the King's and Queen's chamber ...</i>	<i>4s. 2d.</i>
<i>A lock for the gate of the castle ...</i>	<i>12d.</i>

Richard II allowed his mother Queen Anne to dwell in the royal lodges of Hadleigh and Thundersley, and we suspect that during his visit in 1394 he repaid the £50 he had borrowed previously from "*the good men of Hadley.*"

Henry IV's son Humphrey lived in the castle, but the turbulent period of the Wars of the Roses which followed gave little respite to the reigning monarch for indulging in sport, and for a brief period the royal visits cease.

The Tudors inherited the castle and manors in 1485, and Henry VIII found it profitable to give the land here to his first wife Katherine of Aragon, and later to Anne of Cleves when he decided to divorce her.

Besides taking the deer from the parks here to replenish the royal herd at Greenwich, Henry also ordered oak trees to be cut and carried from Thundersley to the wharf at Benfleet, some of the timber to be used in repairing the Tower of London, some in the construction at Deptford of his ship the "*Marie Pleasaunce*" which carried him to France for his meeting in 1520 with the French King Francis I at the Field of the Cloth of Gold.

Henry's last wife Katherine Parr also received the revenues of the castle and manor, and she was the last royal owner, for in 1552 the property was sold.

*"Grant to Lord Rich for £700 of the Castle, Manor and Park of Hadley lately part of the possessions of Katherine Queen of England, deceased."*

And so our long connection with the Crown ended, for the Stuarts and Hanoverians went elsewhere in Essex to be entertained. Yet, in 1588 we still see the inhabitants of the royal village of Thundersley showing their loyalty to Queen Elizabeth by hanging a bell in their church to celebrate the victory over the Spanish Armada. And did not our cavalier squire Sir Henry Appleton fight for his King Charles during the Civil War?

It was this Sir Henry who in 1630 employed Dutch engineers to build the sea-walls of Canvey Island, and it was the breaking of the sea-wall there that brought royalty once more to Benfleet, when the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret came to sympathise with the victims of the recent flooding.

*W. T. Phillips.*

*The Chairman and members of the Coronation Committee desire to express their sincere appreciation and thanks to W. T. Phillips, Esq., of the Benfleet Secondary School for writing this very interesting article.*

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# FLOWER GARDENS COMPETITION

(Open to all Amateur Gardeners living in the Urban District)

## PRIZES

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2nd	2 GUINEAS
3rd	1 GUINEA
4th	1 GUINEA

(Kindly donated by Mr. & Mrs. A. Boston, of "Garry," 37, Clarence Road, South Benfleet).

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These prizes will be awarded for the **BEST FRONT GARDENS** in the Urban District just prior to **Coronation Day, 2nd June, 1953.**

ENTRIES must be received not later than the **27th April, 1953**, accompanied by the entrance fee of **One Shilling**. The proceeds of the Competition will be devoted to the Benfleet U.D.C. Coronation Fund.

JUDGING will take place at any time within the **fourteen days** prior to **Coronation Day**. The exact date will **NOT** be notified in advance.

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ENTRY FORM and further particulars may be obtained from:  
"Carnival," Council Offices, Thundersley.

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# GRAND CARNIVAL PROCESSION

2nd June, 1953

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| „ 4     | „ „ „ Ages 8—11 „  |
| „ 5     | „ „ „ Ages 12—15 „   |
| „ 6     | Adults Fancy Dress.  |
| „ 7     | Equestrian Fancy Dress.  |

ASSEMBLY POINT—Church Road, Hadleigh—1 p.m., where Judging will take place. South Benfleet entrants will assemble at South Benfleet and proceed together to the main Assembly Point.

GRAND PROCESSION moves off at 2 p.m. sharp for the King George V Playing Field, travelling via London Road, Hadleigh, Kiln Road and Shipwrights Drive, Thundersley.

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ENTRY FORM and further particulars may be obtained from:

“Carnival,” Council Offices, Thundersley.

## Presentations

The Benfleet Urban District Coronation Committee have pleasure in recording that every school child in the Urban District of 5 years of age and upwards, will be presented with a special Coronation edition of the New Testament suitably inscribed as follows :—

“Presented to.....to mark the  
Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, June 1953,  
by residents and other friends of the Benfleet Urban District.”

“The entrance of Thy Word giveth light”

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The Benfleet Urban District Savings Committee will present a Savings Certificate to each baby born to residents of the Urban District during Coronation Week (i.e. from and including Sunday, 31st May up to and including Saturday, 6th June, 1953). Applications to be made to the Honorary Secretary at the Council Offices, Thundersley.



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LOCAL SAVINGS COMMITTEE



# SPECIAL NOTICE

Alterations in proceedings and times on

## Coronation Day

- 3 p.m. King George V Playing Field will be open, and the Flower Show, Exhibitions and Amusements will commence.
- 4 p.m. Punch & Judy by Mr. Vernon Clifford.  
Archery Display by Southend & District Archery Club.
- 5.30 p.m. Punch & Judy by Mr. Vernon Clifford.
- 5.30 p.m. **CARNIVAL PROCESSION** as printed on Page 23 will not take place, but will assemble on the field. Judging to take place at 5.45 p.m.
- 6.15 p.m. **OPENING CEREMONY** as detailed on Page 13.
- 6.55 p.m. March Past, etc.
- 7.15 - 8 p.m. Physical Training Display by the A.T.C.
- 7.30-9 p.m. Concert by San Toy Dancing Academy in the School Theatre.
- 8-11.30 p.m. Dancing in the School Hall as advertised—except that the band will be by Bob Kingston.
- Dusk **Community Singing - Firework Display - Bonfire.**

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### A CORONATION BOWLS MATCH

will take place at Benfleet Playing Fields between the Benfleet and Hadleigh Bowling Clubs at 3 p.m.

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The Concert by the Versatile Kids is postponed and will take place on another day. *Look out for posters.*